

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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NEA-10 /093 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208231

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, IT, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAEL SUSPENSION MOVES

REF: ROME 12444

1. MILITANT EFFORTS TO GET LIMA NAC TO ISSUE CALL FOR ISRAELI SUSPENSION FROM UNGA WERE UNSUCCESSFUL. FOLLOWING ARE TALKING POINTS PREPARED THIS SUBJECT FOR SEPTEMBER 2 DISCUSSION ON VARIETY OF EC ISSUES HELD IN DEPARTMENT BETWEEN COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT, EUR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LOWENSTEIN, AND ITALIAN AMBASSADOR GAJA. EMBASSY AUTHORIZED TO DRAW ON SAME IN CONVERSATIONS WITH MFA PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 3-4 EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS' MEETING. TEXT OF LIMA DECLARATION WILL BE REPORTED ASAP.

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BACKGROUND.

LAST FRIDAY THE ITALIANS ASKED AMEMBASSY ROME FOR OUR ASSESSMENT OF MILITANT ARAB EFFORTS TO GATHER SUPPORT FOR A MOVE TO SUSPEND ISRAEL FROM THE UNGA. ITALY REQUESTED THIS INFORMATION, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE LIMA NAC, FOR USE AT THE SEPTEMBER 3-4 MEETING OF EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS.

EARLIER THIS SUMMER, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL PASSED A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PRINCIPLE OF UN UNIVERSALITY AND OPPOSING ATTEMPTS TO ABUSE UN PROCEDURES TO DEPRIVE ANY MEMBER OF ITS RIGHTS. (ITALY WAS WEAKER IN ITS OPPOSITION TO ISRAELI SUSPENSION THAN OTHER EC MEMBERS.) PURSUANT TO THIS DECLARATION, ITALY ON BEHALF OF THE NINE MADE DEMARCHES TO MANY DEVELOPING NATIONS. ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM TOLD ITALIAN EMBASSY CHARGE TAMAGNINI LAST MONTH THAT WE HAD FOUND THOSE DEMARCHES USEFUL. HE ALSO SAID THAT, WHILE THE OAU RESOLUTION ON THIS SUBJECT HAD BEEN ENCOURAGING IN ITS MODERATE TONE AND AVOIDANCE OF MILITANT DEMANDS FOR ISRAELI SUSPENSION, WE WOULD HAVE TO WATCH THE ON-GOING SITUATION CLOSELY.

THE LIMA NAC JUST CONCLUDED ALSO REJECTED MILITANT ARAB DEMANDS FOR STRONG AND SPECIFIC LANGUAGE ON ISRAELI SUSPENSION. AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVES LED SUPPORT FOR A MORE "MODERATE" POSITION, WHICH RESULTED IN A "DEMAND THAT THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL TAKE ALL NECESSARY MEASURES TO FORCE ISRAEL TO CEASE ITS AGGRESSION AND VIOLATIONS AND TO IMPLEMENT ALL UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS."

TALKING POINTS.

-- WE UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR MINISTRY HAS ASKED FOR OUR VIEWS ON THE ISRAELI SUSPENSION EFFORT OF SOME MILITANT NATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE JUST-CONCLUDED LIMA NAC.

-- WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE REFUSAL OF THE LIMA NAC, LIKE THE OAU COUNCIL, TO SUPPORT MILITANT ARAB EFFORTS TO SUSPEND ISRAEL FROM THE UNGA.
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-- WE CONTINUE TO STRONGLY OPPOSE SUSPENSION MOVES. WE APPRECIATE THE EC POSITION, AS IMPLEMENTED RECENTLY THROUGH THE ITALIAN PRESIDENCY, OF INDICATING TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ITS OPPOSITION TO SUCH MOVES.

-- WHILE WE FIND THE SUCCESS OF MORE MODERATE LDCS ON THIS ISSUE ENCOURAGING, AND WHILE WE HOPE PROGRESS IN

THE MIDDLE EAST WILL ASSIST IN ISOLATING MILITANT ATTEMPTS
TO SUSPEND ISRAEL, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO WATCH
THE SITUATION CAREFULLY AS THE UNGA BEGINS, PARTICULARLY
IN THE LIGHT OF COMPLICATIONS CAUSED BY PROBABLE MOVES TO
SUSPEND SOUTH AFRICA. ROBINSON

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